

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /097 R

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-----076707 220532Z /20

R 212120Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, UN

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN-ANGOLAN TALKS ON A BUFFER
ZONE

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 469; B) CAPE TOWN 556; C) LAGOS 1780
(NOTAL)
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1. IN REF B, FOURIE CITES MPLA "WILLINGNESS" TO ALLOW
SMALL SADF DETACHMENTS IN FORWARD POSITIONS AS PART OF A
GENERAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NAMIBIAN-ANGOLAN BORDER AND
EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THE FIVE MIGHT ACCEPT A SIMILAR
ARRANGEMENT. IN REF A, BOTHA ASSERTS THAT NETO HAD
ACCEPTED THIS IDEA BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED OUT OF IT

BY THE SOVIETS.

2. IN CONTRAST TO WHAT BOTHA AND FOURIE HAVE SAID, NETO ON FEBRUARY 5 TOLD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WESTERN FIVE (REF C AND ALSO IN A FRENCH REPORTING CABLE GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT) THAT ANGOLA HAD PROPOSED A 50-KILOMETER DEMILITARIZED ZONE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER BUT THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD SAID THAT IT WISHED TO MAINTAIN FOUR BASES WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF THE FRONTIER. THE ANGOLANS HAD "OF COURSE" REJECTED THIS, ACCORDING TO NETO, AND NO FURTHER TALKS HAD BEEN HELD.

3. COMMENT: FOURIE MAY HAVE DISTORTED THE ANGOLAN POSITION ON SADF BORDER BASES IN A FRESH EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE SOUTH AFRICAN "REASONABLENESS". SHOULD THERE BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON FOURIE'S PART REGARDING ANGOLAN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY CAN PASS ON NETO'S POSITION AS REPORTED REF C. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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